

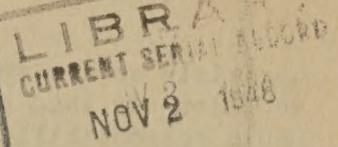
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April 23, 1948

PMA FARM NEWS



ANDERSON RECOMMENDS PRICE SUPPORT CHANGES

Authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to support the prices of agricultural commodities generally through loans, purchases, payments, and other operations was among the recommendations recently made to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson.

The Secretary's testimony on a proposed long-range farm program including these other points also suggested that mandatory price-support activities be made mandatory only for non-perishable commodities for which the law provides mechanisms for keeping supplies in line with demands, that no supports be available when farmers vote down quotas in a referendum, and that the Secretary should be authorized to provide price supports for any commodity at whatever level might be deemed desirable in cases where, in the public interest, it became necessary to obtain increased production.

With respect to the price-support level for mandatory commodities, Secretary Anderson's suggestions were as follows:

1. That mandatory supports be provided at not less than 60 percent of parity, but that the Secretary be permitted to set supports for the basic commodities at a level up to 90 percent of parity.
2. That price supports to cooperators be no less than 75 percent of parity in those years when marketing quotas were actually in effect.

In line with previous recommendations to the Congress, the Secretary again recommended that the "parity" formula should be modernized, to reflect recent historical price relationships among commodities and to include the cost of "hired" labor in calculating the parity index.

FARMERS URGED TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON CONSERVATION PLANS

It's not the planning but the actual carrying out of practices that gets the conservation job done, _____, chairman of the _____ Parish Agricultural Conservation Committee, reminded farmers this week. He said that now that most farmers have made their plans for the season it's time to start putting the plans into practices.

He pointed out that every year there are some excellent conservation plans made that would save millions of tons of soil and thousands of acres of cropland, but for one reason or another the plans are not carried out and the land loses top soil and fertility. With an increasing population and a limited cropland we can't maintain our present standard of living and continue this loss.

Everything that every farmer can do -- with or without assistance of the Agricultural Conservation Program or other conservation programs -- will not be too much. Although people in the United States are eating better now than they have in the past, it is not impossible that we may be at the turning point where production cannot keep up with population increases.

Certainly we are speeding up the day when we will come to that turning point if we allow our land to get away from us, the parish chairman said. Every farmer has a responsibility to the country to do his part in saving our soil. Because this problem is so serious, the Agricultural Conservation Program has been provided to help farmers get this job done. Farmers using this assistance are cooperating in a national fight to save the land and to keep our soil producing the abundance needed to keep the nation well fed.

That's why it's so important that farmers who have made farm plans for carrying out conservation practices follow through on those plans and actually carry out the conservation practices.

Live as if you were going to die tomorrow,
Farm as if you were going to live forever.

--Old English Proverb

**PRICE SUPPORTS STABILIZE
FARMER'S MARKET**

Farm price supports are intended to stabilize the farmer's market, not "hike" it, John Doles, Chairman of the Louisiana State Agricultural Conservation Committee, said today, in commenting on the recent announcement of Government price supports for hogs during the next 6 months.

"Many consumers jump to the conclusion that support programs are keeping prices at current high levels," the Chairman said. "Actually, the programs are not being used for most products, because the market prices are way above supports. Price supports become effective only when prices fall so low that the farmer can't afford to keep on producing the crop."

Prices for hogs are considerably above parity, and they aren't expected to fall to support levels this year. However, the law requires that hog price supports be available through 1948 at 90 percent of parity, for use if needed. Parity for hog prices on March 15 was \$18 per 100 pounds; prices received by farmers on that date averaged \$21.80.

For the next 6 months, hog supports will range from a low weekly average of \$16.50 per 100 pounds, Chicago basis, in May (when marketings are seasonally the largest of the spring or summer), to a high of \$18.50 in September (when marketings are seasonally the smallest of the year).

CCC LOAN COTTON POOL EXPLAINED

Cotton farmers who have government loans on their 1947-crop cotton are being reminded that all 1947-crop loan cotton still under loan on August 1, 1948, will be pooled by Commodity Credit Corporation for the producers' accounts. This includes American-Egyptian as well as upland cotton.

1947-crop cotton under CCC loan that is not redeemed by August 1, 1948, will be placed in pools and sold in an orderly manner by CCC. After July 31, 1948, producers will not be entitled to order the sale of the cotton. The loans mature on that date.

When all the cotton in the pools has been sold the net proceeds, if any, after deduction of all advances, interest and accrued costs, will be distributed among the producers whose cotton was placed in the pools. Distribution will be made on the basis of the amount of the loans on the cotton placed in the pools. No payment will be made to producers at the time their cotton is placed in the pools.

Cotton farmers may either sell their "equity" in the loan cotton or redeem the cotton from the loan and then sell on the open market. Producers should give serious thought to marketing the loan cotton before it goes into the pools. At present prices, farmers should be able to sell most of this cotton at a profit over the loan and charges against the cotton.

NEED TO KEEP LIME,
PHOSPHATE MOVING

Farmers of _____ Parish were urged by _____, chairman of the Parish Agricultural Conservation Committee, to use lime and phosphate throughout the season wherever it is practical. He pointed out that too often the demand piles up in certain periods of the year and the lime and phosphate cannot be shipped in fast enough to meet the demand. Then demand will slacken off, and more could be shipped in if farmers could use the material.

This situation could be helped a great deal if farmers would plan the use of lime and phosphate to cover the entire season instead of just a few weeks. Often lime and phosphate can be applied to pastures when it cannot be applied on growing crops.

Each farmer has his own problems, but if cars could be kept rolling right along throughout the season instead of the demand being piled up in a few weeks, more lime and phosphate could be used and more farmers could get the materials.

As conservation practices under the ACProgram, the application of lime and phosphate are most valuable in increasing the growth of grasses and legumes. These crops protect the soil in several ways. The leaves protect the soil from the bombardment of rain drops and "splash erosion," and the roots hold the soil together and lead the water down into it.

INCREASES PRODUCTION BY DRAINAGE
by the T. W. Humphries farm near Monroe, La.

How farmers are increasing production by draining off excess water is illustrated

Humphries put surface drains on his farm. The Soil Conservation Service laid out the drains. The Agricultural Conservation Program assisted him with about one-half of the out-of-pocket costs of \$5 an acre.

In 1946 the rainfall from April to August amounted to over 24 inches. Humphries said he believed his cotton crop would have failed completely without the drains.

Drainage is an approved ACP practice in the State of Louisiana. Farmers can get information on what assistance is available from their parish Agricultural Conservation Committee.

FLOODS TAKE HUGE TOLL OF SOIL

Farmers carrying out soil- and water-conservation measures under the national Agricultural Conservation Program should renew their determination "to do something" about soil losses, according to _____, Chairman of the _____ Parish Agricultural Conservation Committee.

_____ pointed out that last summer's floods in the upper Mississippi River watershed took about 660 million tons of soil from upland farms in 6 Corn Belt States. This was enough to fill a train of freight cars that would encircle the earth at the equator 5 times.

Assuming wasted soil to be worth a nominal price of a dollar a ton, the erosion bill in only 30 days in these half-dozen States totaled \$660 million. That doesn't include crop damage estimated at \$200 million, and untotaled damage to bottomlands, roads, land, water transportation, and other facilities.

1948 SUGARCANE PROGRAM

Mr. W. M. Alewine of the Conditional Payments Division of the Sugar Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, has been visiting in the State Office this week. He has been conferring with personnel of the State Office regarding the Sugarcane Program.

Among matters discussed were the forms to be used under the 1948 Mainland Sugarcane Program, State and parish office instructions for preparing and handling such forms, and the simplification and clarification of all phases of the Sugarcane Program.

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PMA FARM NEWS

FARM MACHINERY PRODUCTION
CONTINUES HIGH

United States farmers bought more farm machinery in 1947 than in any previous year, according to a recent U. S. Department of Agriculture report.

Production prospects for 1948 indicate a still greater supply available for the domestic market despite the expected increase in European shipments.

Continued increase in the production of small wheel tractors and equipment used with such tractors is in prospect for 1948. Production of dairy and poultry equipment, feed cutters and horse drawn equipment has been high and may decline but it is expected that production will be adequate to meet requirements.

Incomplete reports on 1947 production indicate a total production of farm machines about one-third higher than in 1946 and about double the 1935-39 average. Wheel tractor production reached 420,000 units as compared with 255,000 in 1946 and the previous high mark of 313,000 in 1941.

Farm machinery exports in 1947 also were at a high level, accounting for about 18 percent of the total production, including industrial tractors. Exports included 80,000 wheel tractors, 15,000 garden tractors and 12,000 crawlers. About two-thirds of the crawlers were for non-farm use. Total U. S. production included 420,000 wheel, 166,000 garden and 38,000 crawler type tractors.

Prospects for 1948 indicate an increase in exports to European countries over 1947 while exports to non-European countries may remain about the same. The domestic and foreign demand for crawler tractors and large wheel diesel type or those adapted to heavy fuel is expected to remain strong and the supply situation "relatively tight."

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SOILS LACK TRACE ELEMENTS
IN MOST STATES

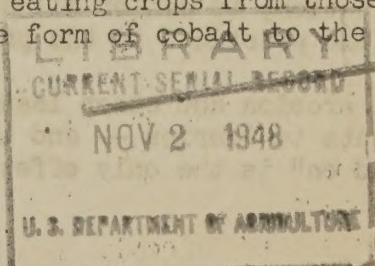
Deficiencies of one or more trace elements are found in nearly every State in this country. These elements are sometimes called the seven minor plant foods.

Boron, cobalt, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, and zinc. Though the needed amount of these elements is small, its absence will be apparent in the crop or in the livestock which consumes the feed grown on such lands.

In seven different States, boron is so badly needed on some of the soils that its application is a part of the Agricultural Conservation Program in those States. Usually boron applications greatly increase the yields of sensitive crops, such as alfalfa.

The soils of seven other States are known to be deficient in cobalt, which can be noticed in a lack of thriftiness in the animals eating crops from those soils. Cobalt deficiency is usually avoided by giving some form of cobalt to the animals themselves.

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POOLING AGREEMENT SAVES LAND

Although many soil and water conservation problems may be solved on individual farms, there are some which affect a number of farmers and must be dealt with cooperatively. According to Mr. John Doles, chairman of the Louisiana State PMA Committee, such problems are handled on a community basis. A group of farmers enter into an agreement under the Agricultural Conservation Program and each uses the funds available to carry out his share of the project. Under the current program, each farmer's share of the program assistance is limited to \$500.

As an example of the effective use of the pooling agreement, the chairman cites a project carried out in Utah. A group of farmers, who own tracts of meadow land near Utah lake, were troubled with too much water. This meadow land was covered with water in late fall and early spring, resulting in the loss of a lot of good feed.

The farmers set up a pooling agreement with the Utah county Agricultural Conservation Committee and constructed a drain which carries the water into Utah lake.

As a result, between 1000 and 1200 acres of land is now free of surface water. The meadows are now pastured in early spring and late fall and during the summer they are cut for hay.

Farmers of _____ parish with community problems of this kind should talk them over with their community or parish ACP committee.

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CONSERVATION TO CONTROL FLOODS

Conservation farming is proving increasingly effective as a means of controlling floods.

It is being demonstrated that the best place to start flood control is where the floods start and not down the river after they get out of hand.

A project is being proposed in Missouri on the Osage river. The cooperative effort of all agencies would be centered on the project -- financial assistance to farmers under the Agricultural Conservation Program, the technical service of the Soil Conservation Service and the educational efforts of the Extension Service and other agencies. The proposal would use every service available in doing "the little things back on the farms" that will check the floods.

The plan calls for contouring 450,000 acres; terracing 2 million acres; constructing 31,000 ponds; 17,000 upstream flood water dams impounding water from about thirty acres each; 2,500 miles of spreader dikes; .23,000 miles of field waterways, small run-off channels on the individual farms; development of 32,000 acres of wild life areas and 2,400 miles of wild life borders such as shelter belts and hedges.

The Missouri proposal is one of seeing the problem first and then applying the cure. This development is in line with the trend in conservation effort through the nation, to center all effort on the most serious erosion problem and then fit the practices to the problem.

Soil erosion and other losses of land and water resources are extremely serious threats to America -- and the world. Concentrating all effort to meet the problem "head on" is the only effective way of finding a solution.

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SOME PLANTS TAKE OVER CROPLAND Not all cropland and pasture that is lost is blown away or washed down the river. When land is taken over by useless plants which prevent the growth of useful plants, it is lost as far as production is concerned -- lost until it can be brought back into the production of useful plants.

This explains why some conservation practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program are for the eradication and control of noxious weeds and competitive plants.

A good example of conserving soil and putting it back into production is the case of F. W. Pulliam, a small rancher in Texas. Mesquite eradication was carried out on 87 acres of a 265-acre pasture on Mr. Pulliam's ranch. This particular pasture had carried one animal unit for each 20 acres. During 1947, after the mesquite was eradicated, the pasture carried 65 head of cattle for 7 months.

The mesquite was killed with kerosene in the spring of 1946 and cattle were kept off this range throughout the year. In 1947 a good stand of grass had replaced the mesquite and grazing was resumed.

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USDA SPONSORS HOME FOOD SURVEY

Farmers should have a more exact idea of what and how much food city consumers will use when results of a national survey of home food consumption become available. The study should also prove useful in developing programs to expand the consumption and improve the nutrition of consumers.

As one of the research projects being carried out under the Federal Research and Marketing Act, the survey is being started by the Department of Agriculture in 70 cities throughout the country. New Orleans has been selected as one of the cities, in which a cross-section of families will be visited.

This is the first survey on a nationwide scale since 1942, and it will show what has happened to the diets of city families in the last 6 years.

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WELL-FED PASTURES PROVIDE
EARLY GRAZING

"Spring is a good time to look over pastures," says _____ (name) _____, _____ (title) _____ of the _____ Parish Agricultural Conservation Committee. "In the spring, one of the effects of feeding a pasture is noticeable. Sometimes the well-fed pasture can be grazed as much as 2 weeks before pastures that are not well fed.

"The usual method to get an early producing pasture is to put lime on the land to boost the growth of legumes. On some soils, phosphate may be needed; on some, potash. The legumes not only produce considerable feed, but they gather nitrogen from the air, which increases the growth of the grasses."

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ALYCE CLOVER GOOD LATE CROP

Alyce clover is a crop that can be planted late in the season. In Stone County, Mississippi, it has been found that Alyce clover can be planted any time between May 15 and July 1. Farmers' experience there and in Pearl River County indicates that Alyce clover is one of the best pasture crops for the hot months of August and September, and that it can be put up as hay as late as November 1.

Alyce clover is particularly adapted to the mild climate counties along the Gulf where good hay-making weather comes later. Alyce clover this year can also be seeded for much less than lespedeza, which is often seeded in that section.

Dealers who do not have seed to supply their customers can get it from Government stocks by writing to P. E. Bowers, Director, CCC Field Office, 417 East 13th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

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